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Photo by Pisces Pet Emporium

Desert Terrestrial Lizards

Including: Curly Tail Lizard, Emerald Swift, Desert Spiny, etc.

Leiocephalus sp, Sceloporus Malachiticus, Sceloporus Magister, etc

Lifespan: 5 to 8 years.

Size: 4 to 8 inches long.

Sexing: Males are generally larger and more vibrantly colored.

Enclosure: A single lizard can be housed in a 18x18x24 all-glass tank. Multiples should be housed in a 24x18x18 or 24x18x24 tank or larger. Males should not be housed together as they are territorial and will fight.

Hiding/Climbing Spots: Supply lots of hiding spots, climbing branches, vines, and rocks. This helps the animal feel more comfortable in its environment and having lower stress will keep your animal healthy. They are very fast climbers and the more climbing materials you give them, the more natural it will be.

Humidity: The enclosure should be well ventilated and misted well to keep the humidity moderate (Up to 75%) and to aid the process of shedding and prevent health problems. Use a digital hygrometer to maintain a constant humidity level. Provide a water dish large enough for the animal to curl up in to help aid the shedding process but shallow to get out easy.

Substrate: Loose soil or bark substrate is ideal for these reptiles. Don't keep it too wet but a damp substrate works best for these lizards. ***Pisces recommends: Exo Terra bark substrates and Zoomed Eco Earth or Zilla Jungle Mix***

Heat: Maintain a temperature of as low as 21 °C (70 °F) at night to as high as 34°C (95 °F) during the day on the basking area. An ambient temperature of 75-85°F is recommended. Use a heat bulb on one portion of the tank so the animal can escape the warm area if they need to. ***Pisces recommends: Exo Terra and Arcadia bulbs and fixtures.***

UV Lighting: Use of a full spectrum T5 bulb for 8-10 hours per day is required. UVB bulbs lose effectiveness and need to be replaced every 8-12 months. ***Pisces Recommends: Arcadia T5 Pro D3+ 6% UVB kit***

Feeding: A Desert Terrestrial lizard's diet should include crickets and worms (meal worms, super worms, butter worms, phoenix worms, and wax worms). Feeding about six 4–5-week crickets once every day or every two days is sufficient. Variety is key to good health.

Vitamins & Supplements: Dust crickets with calcium supplement every 2-4 feeding feedings. Be sure not to use too much to prevent an overdose ***Pisces recommends: Repashy Calcium plus or Pangea pangeacal***

Handling: Desert Terrestrial lizards can be scared easily and can drop their tails. Handle them in a loose fist only when absolutely required. These animals are best left alone.

Safe Handling of Reptiles*: As with all living creatures, reptiles can carry microorganisms (including Salmonella) which can make people ill. To reduce the chances of infection, always follow these safe handling steps:

- Always wash your hands thoroughly after you handle your pet, its food and anything it has touched.
- Keep your pet in a habitat designed for it; do not let your pet reptile roam around the home without proper supervision.
- Keep your pet, its food dishes and cage components out of the kitchen.
- Don't nuzzle or kiss your pet.
- Infants, children under 5 years of age, pregnant women, the elderly, and those with a compromised immune system have a greater risk of infection. Extra caution should be taken when they are in contact with any animal. Children under 5 should handle reptiles only under adult/parent supervision.

Your New Pet: It is the responsibility of any pet owner to provide their pet with regular veterinary care to maintain their pet's health and to prevent illness. Should you experience any problems with your new pet, contact Pisces Pet Emporium. We will make every effort to assist you, but we may refer you to a qualified veterinarian if the problem is beyond our ability to treat. A pet is a large responsibility and should not be purchased without due consideration. Pets should never be released into the wild.

Pisces Recommended Setup:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Glass terrarium (Exo Terra Small Tall 18x18x24) ❑ Exo Terra/Newcal Branches, jungle vines for climbing ❑ Jurassic/Zoomed Cork rounds/flats for hiding and shedding aid ❑ Exo Terra Misting bottle ❑ Exo Terra/Zoomed/Pet-Tekk medium water dish (shallow but big enough to soak) ❑ Zoomed Eco Earth or Exo Terra Forest bark substrate or Zilla Jungle Mix (not too wet) ❑ Jurassic sphagnum moss or terrarium moss to aid in humidity and shedding | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Plants (live or Exo Terra/Pangea/Komodo artificial plants) ❑ Exo Terra 100w Daylight Basking lamp & Flukers 8.5in Dimmable Deluxe Clamp Lamp ❑ Arcadia T5 Pro D3+ 6% UVB kit ❑ Repashy Supervite multivitamin ❑ Repashy Calcium plus/Pangea pangeacal ❑ Crickets (dependent on size) ❑ Worms ❑ Exo Terra digital thermometer and hydrometer or combometer |
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